

World Health Organisation (WHO): Seventy-Third World Health Assembly (73rd WHA)

Agenda Item: 13.3: Influenza Preparedness



Thank you, Chair

India firmly believes in the objective of the attainment of the highest possible level of health, and values a unified mechanism for providing accessible and affordable health care to all. This has been the driving force behind most of our primary health interventions and is also integral to our Pandemic management strategy.

In the past year, WHO has advocated the importance of protecting people in all countries from the threat of influenza, and released its Global Influenza Strategy for 2019-2030, with linkages to the International Health Regulations. India firmly believes that the risks for humankind, by new influenza viruses causing more such disease outbreaks is very real. There is an urgent need for the global community to address this issue by ensuring vigilance and preparedness in our healthcare systems.

Chair,

With the objective of strengthening the influenza preparedness and response systems as advocated by the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework, India continues its proactive efforts in ensuring equitable and timely distribution of quality, safe, effective, and affordable influenza vaccines and treatments.

As we all move closer to COVID vaccine availability, there is a critical need to develop innovative technology solutions across the entire gamut of vaccine inventory management and administration. India has also worked towards setting up a robust and innovative digital platform known as Covin (COVID Vaccine

Intelligence Network). This network shall serve as a system for the end to end management of logistics and beneficiaries. In the interest of global knowledge sharing, India is willing to share its strategy and know-how for the same.

We have also constituted the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) with participation of experts and policy makers from various domains, for the purpose of science & evidence based vaccine prioritization and distribution.

Chair,

With such systems in place, India wants to ensure that every step in the influenza preparedness mechanism to be systemically planned, and to include dynamic set-ups of distribution networks and monitoring & surveillance mechanisms.

India would like to place emphasis on the importance of equality in benefit-sharing with respect to exchange of knowledge in harmony with the mandate of the PIP framework. In this way we can ensure equitable and inclusive administration of the influenza vaccines and treatments.

Thank you.